

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 947

By Davis L

A RESOLUTION to congratulate William and Irmgard Fuchs on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as examples for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on Easter Sunday in 1950, William and Irmgard were joined in holy matrimony in a church in Cuxhaven, Germany, and since that fateful day, this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, the life stories of William and Irmgard are indeed inspiring; both of them had to overcome tremendous personal tragedy, pain, and strife as citizens of Germany during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after escaping from a special school, which she was forced to attend by the government and which was located far away from her home, Irmgard was reunited with her family just moments before they escaped from their home as the war front was closing in on them. The family was constantly hounded by German soldiers as they fled the advancing

combat and Irmgard narrowly escaped death twice during her family's harrowing journey to the safe town of Cuxhaven; and

WHEREAS, William's history is equally dramatic; when he was only 16-years-old, he served in the German equivalent of the American Civil Conservation Corps, helping to build roads, bridges, buildings, and other similar structures, before he was drafted into the German army when he was seventeen. During his military service, William was wounded three times and was taken captive by the Russians, who nearly worked him to death during his three years of captivity; and

WHEREAS, after the war, William journeyed to Cuxhaven to live with his brother; there, he took up the tool and die trade and met Irmgard, who was supporting her family by working for an import-export fish company there; and

WHEREAS, the Fuchs made their home in Cuxhaven, and had two children before applying to immigrate to the United States; and

WHEREAS, after four years of seemingly endless paperwork, William and Irmgard were finally approved to move to the United States under the sponsorship of the Lutheran Church in New York; the Fuchs came to America with only two suitcases, two boxes, and two children; and

WHEREAS, the Fuchs came to live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where William, who could only speak German at the time, was reunited with his brother; and

WHEREAS, through a great deal of hard work and determination, William learned to speak English and eventually started his own business, in addition to working another job; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Fuchs proudly became U.S. citizens in 1961; they eventually opened up a German and French gourmet restaurant called the Chateau de Willowbrook, after having two more children; and

WHEREAS, after many years of living in Milwaukee, Irmgard and William Fuchs began to look for a place to retire; they finally settled in the great community of Fairfield Glade because of its many similarities to their homeland; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Fuchs have been highly respected citizens of the Fairfield Glade community for several years; they are the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, for 50 years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, this fine couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced four children, each of whom has excelled in his or her particular field of endeavor; the Fuchs's children are William, Jr., Silvia, Ralph, and Michael; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Fuchs's are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor and congratulate William and Irmgard Fuchs on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.